Meeting Lincoln

Original letters describing encounters with the 16th President of the United States

Surnames beginning with

R

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

71-2009.085.02195

Ramsey, James Shanklin Assassination Evansville, Ind.

MRS. WILLIAM WARREN
207 CLAREMONT APTS.
EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

W. R. Terry,
Bustleton Pa

Dear Sir:

Your recent letter of kindly ingrowry and interest in me, came duly.

I, Personally, did not see Lincoln. The division in which my regement was placed was always in the West or South.

I inlisted July, 1861, in Co F. 24 reg. Indiana Vol. Infantry.

Lost my right Arm May 16, 1863, in the rear of Vicksburg Miss., during the battles of Champiafs Hills. Was dis-

Charged at St-Louis Oct 21, 1863
(our first major battle was April 6
and 7th 1862 at Shilo- Tenn.)

I am enclosing you a program which speaks for itself.-

Mrs. Fitton of Mt. Vernon read a verbatim paper related to her by a fellow citizen, a G A R ~~aged~~ man - who witnessed the assassination of Pres Lincoln.

A letter to her would bring you information, perhaps a copy in print of what Mr Booth had to tell her.

Thanking you am
Very truly

[redacted]

Per L.B.W.

Feb. 27, 1931
Box 3. Newburgh Ind
after March 1st

SOUTHWESTERN INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(Founded January 9th, 1920)

William L. Barker, President

ANNUAL MEETING

Evansville, Indiana

Thursday, February 12, 1931

Young Women's Christian Association

PROGRAM

Morning Session, 10 O'clcok, A. M.

Invocation.....Dr. T. A. Wigginton, Evansville
Reading of Minutes.....Mrs. Kenneth H. Weyerbacher, Boonville
Report of Treasurer.....Mrs. John L. Sanders, Evansville
Report of Committee on nomination of officers.
Election of officers.
Appointment of committee on resolutions.
Two Minute Reports of County Activities by Vice-Presidents.
Dubois County—Miss Genevieve C. Williams, Huntingburgh.
Gibson County—Lucius C. Embree, Princeton.
Knox County—Judge William C. Mason, Vincennes.
Perry County—A. H. Bergenroth, Troy.
Pike County—M. McStoops, Petersburgh.
Posey County—Mrs. Herbert Fitton, Mt. Vernon.
Spencer County—Taylor C. Basye, Rockport.
Vanderburgh County—Mrs. George S. Clifford, Evansville.
Warrick County—John M. Kohlmeyer, Boonville.
Resume of 1929 and 1930—W. L. Barker, President.
Diary and Some Letters of James Cawson—Mrs. Wm. R. Davidson, Evansville.
The Conservation and Development of our Historical Resources—Curtis G. Shake, Vincennes.
The Assassination of Pres. Lincoln as related by James Shanklin Ramsey Nov. 1, 1929—Mrs. Herbert Fitton, Mt. Vernon.

Luncheon 12:30 o'clock Y. W. C. A. Dining Room.

Afternoon Session, 1:30 P. M.

Historical Societies and Schools—Dr. Christopher B. Coleman, Indianapolis.
Steamboat Days—Clarence P. Wolfe, New Harmony.
The Grahams, Hudspeths and Dennys—John E. Iglehart, Evansville.
3 P. M.—Moving Picture of Lincoln Biennial Pageant, Rockport, July 4, 1930. Mrs. Bess Ehrmann, Author and Director.
Adjournment.

We wish to increase our membership this year. You are invited to bring in a new member; visitors are welcome.

Randall, Smith... Grand Rapids, Mich.

MICHIGAN SOLDIERS' HOME

GRAND RAPIDS

BOARD OF MANAGERS

THE GOVERNOR, *Ex-Officio*
JOHN G. EMERY, 2025 Francis Ave., S. E., Grand Rapids
I. J. VAN KAMMEN, 1576 Fiske Rd., S. E., Grand Rapids
O. E. KILSTROM, 511 Union Ave., S. E., Grand Rapids
ALBERT C. ESTABROOK, Allegan
HENRY W. BUSCH, Water Board Bldg., 735 Randolph St., Detroit

OFFICERS OF THE HOME

COLONEL EDGAR H. CAMPBELL, *Commandant*
MAJOR DON C. INGRAHAM, *Adjutant*
MAJOR T. W. HAMMOND, *Chief Surgeon*
CAPTAIN JOHN STRONACH, JR., *Quartermaster*

COLONEL EDGAR H. CAMPBELL
COMMANDANT

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD
HENRY W. BUSCH, *Chairman*
O. E. KILSTROM, *Secretary*

MAJOR DON C. INGRAHAM
ADJUTANT

April 6th, 1931.

Mr. Howard K. Terry,
Bustleton, Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir:

Replying to yours of April 4th, would say that the following members of this Home have seen Abraham Lincoln:

Billings Randall
Alexander Smith
Lemuel Tingley
Frederick Lavall

Communications to the above men may be addressed to them in care of Company "A", Michigan Soldiers' Home.

Very truly yours,
MICHIGAN SOLDIERS' HOME

Don C. Ingraham

Major Don C. Ingraham
ADJUTANT

315 Pine St. Maywood Ill
July 10, 1931

Mr. H. K. Terry; —

Dear Sir,

The Supt. of Bapt. Home here handed your letter to us. Mrs Randolph is a hospital patient and so will not be able to write to you but you may find this little interview of some interest.

If you have not already done so you might care to write to the Supt. of the Maywood Home for Soldier's Widows 224 N. 1st Ave.

Yours truly,

Bertha S. Choate.
Nurse.

Randolph, Mrs. Carthage, Ill. St. Maynard, Ill

Acdeptance Speech

I found little Mrs Randolph rocking in her little chair beside the window, when I went in to ask her if she knew Lincoln. All day long she sits rocking in that same chair contented to dwell on her memories of long ago.

"Sure I remember Lincoln," she answered in reply to my question. "Maw and pa and I drove in to town to hear him accept the nomination for presidency in Carthage Illinois. Maw and I sat in the first row of benches, only about five feet away from the platform, but pa along with all the other men had to stand up. Everybody was perfectly still, the band played "Hail to the Chief" and then

finished whimsically, and her voice stopped and she again fell to mousing. I went out quietly leaving her to her musings.

Colonel Stinson introduced Abe Lincoln. He was immaculately neat. He wore linsey trousers black satin vest and black broadcloth frock coat. Every one in the crowd heard him, although there were so many people there. Although he spoke for an hour no noise was heard. His solemn way of talking made a lasting impression on all of us. He talked mostly on party lines, though I remember he told that incident of his visit to St. Louis. He said that the sight of human beings put on a platform and sold like cattle made him make up his mind when he got to be a man he would hit that thing and hit it hard and we know that he did" she

Raver, Robert
THE LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
Willoughby, Ohio
enroute to Wash.

North Olmsted, Ohio

Olmsted Falls, O., Sept 10/32.

The Lincoln National Life Ins Co.,
Ft Wayne, Ind.
attention, Dr Louis Barrea.

Gentlemen =

Enclose clippings of Robert Raver and Dr Dayton Gould of seeing Lincoln. I also enclose the originals with pictures of each attached. I would like the originals + pictures back unless you desire to keep them. Enclose a stamped envelope. If Dr. Gould should be the lucky contestant for the trip I would like the opportunity of "helping him off." If not he (they) would appreciate a letter from me telling the story of the contest.

Would it not be a good idea to have a mimeographed book (if no more) containing the accounts these various contestants? It would please these people much to have such a booklet. They will all be gone soon.

Respfly Henry R. Walkden

Raver, Robert North Olmsted, Ohio

North Olmsted, Ohio.

Aug. 22, 1932.

Mr. Paul G. Mohler.

Editor, Berea News.

Dear Sirs.;

In reply to the notice of the wish to locate the oldest in Ohio who saw and heard Lincoln. This takes me back to Willoughby Ohio in the year of 1861. The last part of Febuary, when Lincoln was on his way to be inaugurated. Passing through Willoughby on the Lake Shore train.

I saw him and recall his words. speaking to the young men who was then called the Willoughby volunteers for the coming war he said to them. YOU WILL MISS YOUR MOTHERS PILLOW. AND USE YOUR ARM WHEN IN CAMP. MY AGE WAS 82 LAST MARCH.

Very truly yours.

Robert N. Raver

No Olmsted O

RAver

Raver, Robert S.

North Olmsted Ohio
Sept-6-1932

In reply to the notice in the Berea News that the Lincoln National Life Foundation of Ft Wayne Ind. wish to locate the oldest in Ohio who saw and heard Lincoln

This takes me back to Willoughby Ohio. in the year of 1861. the last part of February. when Lincoln was on his way to be inaugurated. passing through Willoughby O on the Lake Shore train I saw and can recall some of his words speaking to the young men who were then called the Willoughby Volunteers for the coming Civil war.

He said to them
You will miss your Mothers pillow
and she mine when in camp

I also saw Lincolns remains while on the way were-
it was at the Public Square in Cleveland April 1865-

Robert S. Raver
North Olmsted
Ohio

Raver, Robert

Wolloughby, Ohio
back of train

North Olmsted, Ohio

82

"I Saw Lincoln"

Full Name Robert H. Raver

Present Address North Olmsted. Ohio

Date of Birth Year 1850 Month March Day 7

Place of Birth Willoughby O

Where you saw Lincoln Willoughby Ohio

When you saw Lincoln Febuary - 1861

Remarks:- Lincoln Came to been of car
Spoke to the Young Men who had
Volunteered for Military Service &
Said to them You will miss
Your Mothers Pillow and Your
Fireside Home

Robert H Raver
No Olmsted Ohio

RAWLINGS, G. S.
C. Y. PITMAN, ASSESSOR

Scan Lincoln
Quincy, Ill.
L.-D. Debate

SAN JOSE, CALIF.
FRANK E. SPITZER, CHIEF DEPUTY

OFFICE OF THE

County Assessor

SANTA CLARA COUNTY
HALL OF JUSTICE
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

October 11th-
19 33

Mr. Louis A. Warren,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Sir:-

A niece of mine in Quincy, Illinois sent me a clipping from a paper there in connection with the seventy-fifty anniversary of the Lincoln-Douglas debates.

I was in Quincy October 13th 1858 and heard Lincoln and Douglas discus the slavery question. I was only fifteen years old at that time but according to my opinion , Lincoln had the best of the argument.

I heard them again in November of 1860. I was standing by the gate to the public square when Lincoln drove up in a hack and brushed my arm in passing into the square. He and Douglas both got up on the platform together. Lincoln spoke first. In Douglas's speech he remarked, " you used to sell liquor, I believe", "Yes", said Lincoln, "at one time I worked in a store and whiskey was one of the articles we sold and to my recollection you were one of my best customers." That made every one laugh.

Very truly yours,

R*

G. S. Rawlings

Reagan, W. H. St. Cloud, Fla.

St. Cloud, Fla.,
January 18, 1931.

Jack H. H. Terry
Bradstreet Bldg.,

Dear Old Friend Jack:

Captain Sam Kennedy is here & wants you should write you & tell you all the exciting story concerning Mr. Rockefeller's recent visit here. Sam has been very hospitable and Mr. Rockefeller left for the North very favorably impressed. Sam & I have very often discussed your visit to Florida & wish you could have been with us. Sam & I EVER & ever discussed about that time of your death. Sam was about 10,000 days out. Sam & I have often discussed having you with us at Melbourne Beach & Cocoa & Indian River & Titusville & Orlando & Winter Haven & Bartow & Tampa & Clearwater & Sarasota & Fort Myers & Miami & Palm Beach & Daytona & Jacksonville & Fernandina & St. Augustine & Ormond & Daytona & New Smyrna & Titusville & Cocoa & Melbourne &

AGED ST. CLOUD VET DELIVERS ADDRESS

Special to the Sentinel

ST. CLOUD, July 28.—An interesting speech by W. H. Reagan, an old union soldier of the Civil war, now in his 92nd year was in part as follows at Jamestown, Tennessee.

"I am glad to be here with my friends on this 4th of July. Now let us go back 155 years to the day when 56 men signed the declaration of independence in Philadelphia. So on that day (July 4, 1776) a nation was born without a king and a church without a priest, and it took seven years of cruel war to put life in that sublime declaration. During that war the soldiers of the revolution led by the world's only Washington, they marched, they fought, they bled and they fell. For the liberty we enjoy today.

"They fell devoted but not dying
The very gale seems their names crying
Their memory sparkles o'er the fountain
Their spirits wrap the dusty mountain
The lonely pillow silent and gray"
Claims kindred with their sacred clay,
The meanest rill and the mightiest river
Rolls mingling with their forms forever."

"And while the soldiers were bleeding and dying on the field of battle, the dear women like ministering angels were nursing the sick and wounded and sending up fervent petitions to the throne of Grace for success, and so it always has been in all the great emergencies for the betterment of the human race the dear women have always done their full part. They were last at the cross and first at the resurrection.

"After the victory of the 13 colonies they soon found the articles of confederation were not sufficient for a union and they were about to fall to pieces and set up little separate states, and through the influence of Washington, Hamilton and Franklin and other patriots they called a general convention to draft a constitution for a more perfect union, and 55 delegates met in Philadelphia. They were the most extraordinary set of delegates that ever met in convention on this earth.

"In the creation the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters," that same spirit moved upon the hearts of those delegates and guided them in their councils. They were nearly four month in session, their guiding star was the declaration of Independence and in that there is no place for slavery. Yet they became deadlocked on that question and rather than fail slavery was permitted in the constitution and it took 4 years of bloody war to erace that relic of the dark ages from our constitution, and the martyred Lincoln to write the emancipation proclamation when he said under God this nation shall have a new birth of freedom and government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

"And from that last sentence our soldier boys carried old glory 3000 miles over the briny deep to the bloody fields of Europe and planted it there in the fronts of the battle and kept it there until the white winged angel of peace crowned it in victory. Adding one more page of imperishable glory to our dear old flag. Let me say a word about the old flag. Born in the darkest days of the revolution immersed in the blood and tears of the revolutionary ancestors, it shields the loftiest mansions and the lowest, but under its sacred folds the weak will be protected and the strong must obey and like the bow in the clouds a beacon of hope for all nations. I am not a prophet nor the son of a prophet, but I will venture the assertion that Old Glory will float down future centuries crowned in victory till the angel we read about in revelations, shall stand with one foot on the sea and one foot on the land, and with uplifted hands swear by Him that lives forever and ever that time shall be no more.

W. H. Reagan, Sergt. Co. G,
9th Tenn. Union Cavalry,
Post office box 712,
St. Cloud, Florida.

1931

Reeder, William C. Peru, Ind.

Peru August 17th 1932

This was handed me to day by the Editor of the Peru Republican I hardly know what you realy want me to say but will endevour to advise to best I can in the first place I was born in the town Massillon Ohio in 1839 I lived there until 1854 yr west was the cry so we came here the 17th of April 1854 Now 78 years ago on the 14th of June 1861 I enlisted in Co A. 20th Ind Vol Inft for three years I saw much hard service & the regiment was in most of the hard fought battle of the Eastern Army I was wounded in the fight at Oak Grove fight in front of Richmon on the 25th of June 1862 was put aboard a transport at city point landing on the James ha river & taken to washington D.C. & was placed in the Columbian College Hospital on 14th & Girard Dr Thomas A. Crosby in charge it was while I was there that I met Abraham Lincoln & his dear wife She paid a visit to this hospital while I was yet in bed Lincoln & Secretary Stanton lived that Summer in there Summer residence out a short distance I think North of the city they went in to the City in the morning & back in the afternoon So he became a very familiar figure especialy on horse back he often stoped for a little visit & talk he was kind & was more interested in our wellfare than his own I am glad that I can say I shook the hand of Lincoln could he have lived there would have been no Carpet-baggers in the South I had the pleasure of two visits from Schuyler Colfax at that time Congress man from the Indiana District Lane & daughter wife & Daughter Paid me a visit while I was yet in Bed Some very pleasant Memories I could write Many things 93 in May B. F. Lincoln Sons Dr Abilia of Peru Could tell you of me Horseman of the Gas Utilities will say a good word for me I know he used to live here I wish you Success William C. H. Reeder. 117 West 8th Peru Ind

Enclosed is my Picture taking at 9!

Reeder

SEEK OLDEST HOOSIER
WITH MEMORIES OF LINCOLN

Who is the oldest person in Indiana who heard, saw or knew Abraham Lincoln?

This is a question the Lincoln National Life Foundation, Ft. Wayne, Ind., would like to have answered. It put the question to the editor of the Republican who in turn is passing it on to his readers. The editor will welcome any pertinent information on this matter, or it may be sent direct to the Foundation at Fort Wayne.

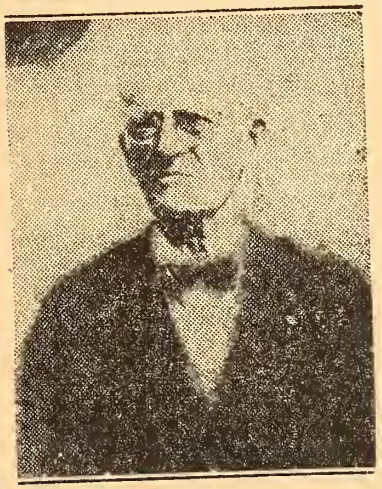
The reason the Foundation is trying to locate this person is that it is desirous of doing honor to him or her, if it should prove to be a woman. On September 16, the Foundation will dedicate at Fort Wayne a heroic bronze statue of "Abraham Lincoln, the Hoosier Youth", the work of Paul Manship, celebrated New York sculptor. The statue, which will be the foremost memorial to the Emancipator by the state in which he spent fourteen years of his boyhood, will stand on the plaza of the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company's building. Principal speaker at the dedication ceremonies, which will be broadcast over a national hook-up on the NBC "Farm and Home" hour, will be Hon. Arthur M. Hyde, U. S. Secretary of Agriculture. In attendance will be the governors and senators of several states, the national heads of a number of patriotic and fraternal organizations, outstanding personages in civic life, business, education, art, history, famous Lincoln authorities and many other noted men and women, including possibly members of Lincoln's family. The Foundation feels that it would be highly appropriate to also have present at the dedication the oldest person in each of the neighboring states of Illinois, Michigan and Ohio, with personal recollections of the great Emancipator. The one person in each state finally selected will have all his expense connected with the trip paid.

The statue, on which Mr. Manship has been working for four years, represents the boy Lincoln, leaning easily and naturally against a stump in the simple costume of the frontier. As was his custom, he has a dog by his side, typifying his love for animals, an ax modeled after his own particular one, symbolizing him as a rail splitter, and in his hand a book signifying inspirational thought. On each face of the pedestal is to be a group of heroic figures in medallion form, done with typical Manship technique, representing some of the qualities for which the name of Lincoln stands---patriotism, justice, fortitude and charity. The statue, classical in feeling, will rise on its pedestal plinth to a height of 24 feet.

-o-o-o-

Reeder, William C. Deceased Washington, D. C. hospital Peru, Ind.

Veteran's Rites Friday



William C. H. Reeder.

Funeral services for William C. H. Reeder, aged 93, Miami County's old-oldest Civil War veteran will be held at the First Methodist Church at Peru Friday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. The services will be in charge of the Rev. Benjamin Thornburg, pastor of the church, assisted by Dr. Harry Nyce, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. Interment will be in Mount Hope Cemetery.

Mr. Reeder died at the Dukes Memorial Hospital after an illness of pneumonia. Surviving are two daughters, three sons, 12 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Mr. Reeder enlisted in the Union Army in July, 1861, and served throughout the war. He was wounded in the battle of Peach Orchard and spent six months in the hospital. He served under McClellan, Mead and Hooker. - 10-6-32

STATE OF WISCONSIN
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
DIVISION
GRAND ARMY HOME FOR VETERANS
WISCONSIN VETERANS HOME, WISCONSIN

COL. JOHN TURNER, COMMANDANT

April 11, 1931

Howard K. Terry
Bustleton
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Sir:

In reply to yours inquiry of April 4th, following is a list of the Civil War veterans in this Home who have seen Abraham Lincoln. They may be reached by adressing them Wisconsin Veterans Home, Wisconsin.

The following are able to answer their own correspondence:

Selah B. Reeve
Kosciusko Thompson
Herman Hoffman
Charles Gosha.

The following cannot answer their own correspondence but undoubtedly could have someone answer for them:

Henry Bostwick
James Granger
John Steffen.

Yours very truly,

John Turner

John Turner, Commandant

Rice, Richard

Columbus, Ohio
Funeral - guard

New Concord, Ohio

"I Saw Lincoln"

86

Full Name Mr Richard Rice

Present Address New Concord Ohio R.F.D. 2.

Date of Birth Year 1846 Month February Day 2nd

Place of Birth New Concord Muskingum Co

Where you saw Lincoln Columbus Ohio

When you saw Lincoln When he lay in state in Columbus

Remarks: - I marched as one of the pall bearers from the State House to the principle depot. The body was sent to Indianapolis and I would like very much to attend the unveiling but I am not able to walk that far. I would not be able to sit down for a while. I have been in the regular army and being blind am not in very good health. Richard Rice.

Rice, Richard — New Concord, Ohio

To The Lincoln National Life Foundation. Ft Wayne Ind.
I see by the Zanesville Signal that you want to hear from someone that heard saw or knew Abraham Lincoln. My Father Mr Richard Rice who is in his 87th yr but who has been blind for the past 7 yr. Remembers well when he stood guard over Lincolns body and marched at the funeral He never saw him alive. Mr Rice belonged to company E 88th regiment O V I.

Mrs Robt H Marshall
R F D No 2,
New Concord Ohio

Richards, Martha J. Went to Springfield with L. Petersburg, Ill.

Oct. 6 — 32.

Martha J. Richards.

I have seen Lincoln when I was a small boy. My father and Lincoln took me to Springfield with them. I was about seven years old. Lincoln went to get his hair cut and left me in the care of a Colored woman who was afraid of me. My father was Lincoln's barber and they were great friends. I remember my father bought one of the first two wood stoves ever sold in Petersburg. I was, I guess, about 4 years old. I saw in the Paper, before I left Petersburg, the names of the people who have sanctioned Martha J. Richards of Petersburg 409 South 5th St. but am at present at Peoria for the winter. at 901 East Lincoln Peoria Ills.

Riggs, Albert D.

Lacona Iowa 3-24-13

Editor Journal

Knoxville Iowa

Dear Sir

Being interested in your list of "Lincoln Voters", Will say that my father, "Luther Riggs" ~~was~~ voted for Lincoln twice, The first time at "Renfro School House" in Lucas Co. Ia, and the second time while in the Service of his country, He does nt remember distinctly but thinks it was at the mouth of White River, voting on board Ship. I think he must have voted for "Fremont" as he reached his majority in '55. Tho his memory is not clear on this point

Yours Truly

Albert D Riggs

Lacona Ia RR 1

Riggs, James M. Winchester, Ill.

EDWARD G. MINER
ROCHESTER, N.Y.

January Twenty-seventh
1 9 3 2

My dear Sir:

This is in reply to your inquiry of the 24th instant.

The Hon. James M. Riggs,
Winchester,
Scott County,
Illinois -

a very eminent citizen of Illinois, knew Abraham Lincoln, and undoubtedly, can give you some information in response to your inquiry.

Mr. Riggs is a man in his ninety-first or ninety-second year, but his mental faculties are as keen as in the days when he was both prominent as a congressman in Washington and later, as a judge on the bench in his State. I have referred your letter to him.

I have not written anything concerning Abraham Lincoln, although my father and grandfather both did, and published the same privately, so that the copies are not available for distribution. My grandfather was a friend of Lincoln's, and was one of the members of the old Whig party in Illinois which later became the Republican party. My father, born in 1835, and who died in 1925, remembered Lincoln well, in a number of activities.

Yours very truly,

E. G. Miner

Mr. Howard K. Terry,
9528 Wisteria Street,
Bustleton,
Philadelphia, Penna.

SC

Riggs, J. M.

LAW TERMS
SECOND MONDAY OF JANUARY AND JULY

L.-D. Debates

Winchester
J. M. RIGGS
~~Judge of County Court~~
Scott County
~~and Attorney at Law~~
Winchester, Illinois

Winchester, Ill.

PROBATE TERMS
FIRST MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH

Feb. 3, 1932.

Mr. Howard K. Terry,
Philadelphia, Pa,

Dear Mr. Terry:—

Replying to your letter of 31st Ult. I have little to say relative to personal contact with Mr. Lincoln.

During the late summer or early autumn of 1858, when he was "campaigning" Illinois in the contest with Douglas for the U. S. Senate, Mr Lincoln spoke here. I was then nineteen years old and living on the farm about five miles from here where I was born and reared. I came to town and heard Mr Lincoln- rather heard part of his speech: That is the first time I said Lincoln so far as I now know.

During the campaign for the presidency, in late summer of 1860, I called on him at his "reception office" in old state house in Springfield, and shook hands and extended the usual

J. M. RIGGS
~~Judge of County Court~~
Scott County
~~and Attorney at Law~~
Winchester, Illinois

LAW TERMS
~~X~~
SECOND MONDAY OF JANUARY AND JULY

PROBATE TERMS
~~X~~
FIRST MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH

courtesies — such as an ordinary young man — then just old-enough to vote — would be likely to extend to a very prominent candidate for the Presidency — this call was necessarily brief, as many were calling. I have now told you all I remember as to contact with him.

The only thing I wrote about Mr. Lincoln was written incidentally in speeches about Douglas and in a history of this county which I wrote years ago. As Douglas had made his Western debut here when twenty years old and afterward became very prominent it seemed incumbent when writing that history to give him a prominent place in the history of this county, and I could not write of him without incidentally writing something about his great political opponent. A copy of that history is not available — as unfortunate conflagration destroyed all unbound copies, and very few copies had been to the binders.

3

J. M. RIGGS

~~Judge of County Court~~

Scott County

~~and Attorney at Law~~

Winchester, Illinois

LAW TERMS

SECOND MONDAY OF JANUARY AND JULY

PROBATE TERMS

FIRST MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH

Col. N. M. Knapp, able lawyer of this city (long since gone) was a personal friend and supporter of Lincoln. I was his law-partner for the last seven and a half years of his life, and, as he had served in our legislature in 1852 and our constitutional convention of 1847, when Mr. Lincoln was coming into ~~prominence~~ as a great lawyer and as a ~~politician~~, he had good opportunity to know, and did know intimately, the future great war-president.

He, Col. Knapp, told me that Mr. Lincoln was anxious to attend the ~~republication~~ republican presidential convention in 1860. Col. Knapp advised him that being a candidate it would not be best for him (Mr. Lincoln) to go, to which the latter said in reply "I am not candidate enough to exclude me from attendance!" But Lincoln did not go and Knapp who was an enthusiastic Lincoln delegate did go. When the latter was de-clared the ~~candidate~~ candidate Col. Knapp instantly wired him, "Praise God Abe you are nominated." Knapp told me this in the words I have used. I have only seen this in print, ~~once~~ about.

LAW TERMS
SECOND MONDAY OF JANUARY AND JULY

J. M. RIGGS
~~Judge of County Court~~
Scott County
~~and Attorney at Law~~
Winchester, Illinois

PROBATE TERMS
FIRST MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH

twenty-five or thirty years ago. I do not remember in what paper or publication I saw it, and I kept no note of it in regard to it.

I have wondered that one or more of those who are finding and preserving and publishing everything about Mr. Lincoln — even the smallest or least important fact or "saying" have not mentioned the wire from Knapp to Lisle.

I have already written enough to try your patience, and beg pardon for saying so much.

At ninety-three years of age one is liable to be reminiscent and very talkative when he has a listener; who is at his mercy.

Very respectfully,

J. M. Riggs.

Riker, etc.

Cincinnati, Ohio

"One Country, One Language, One Flag."

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

JAMES E. JEWEL
Commander-in-Chief, Fort Morgan, Colo.
DAVID N. HEIZER
Adjutant-General, Colorado Springs, Colo.
COLA D. R. STOWITS
Quartermaster-General, Buffalo, N. Y.

JACOB SECREST, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Cincinnati, Ohio.
CHARLES H. LEWIS, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Pawtucket, Rhode Island.
EDWARD H. COWAN, Surgeon General, Crawfordsville, Indiana.
HENRY HILTON WOOD, Chaplain-in-Chief, Long Beach, California.

SAMUEL P. TOWN, Assistant Quartermaster General and Custodian of Records, Philadelphia, Pa.
SAMUEL M. HENCH, Judge Advocate General, Fort Wayne, Indiana.
WM. H. NOLL, Inspector General, Los Angeles, California.
ROBERT W. HILL, National Patriotic Instructor, Albany, New York.
P. H. CONEY, Assistant Adjutant General, Topeka, Kansas.
JOHN H. MILLS, Chief-of-Staff, Redfield, Iowa.
G. H. POUNDER, Senior Aide, Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin.

215 Gilman ave

OFFICE OF
SENIOR VICE
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

CINCINNATI, OHIO 2/14/31

Howard K. Terry

Dear Sir

Your letter of Jan 23rd received and contents noted. would say in reply to Your request for names of G.A.R. veterns that Knew Lincoln or Saw him there but few veterns in our city living that Met or Knew him, as Those that are living served in the western and the army of the Cumberland. However I am sending You the names of two comrads that can give You some information on the subject. Members of George H. Thomas Post #9 G.A.R. Samuel M. Riker, No 2247 Florence ave, Cincinnati O Robert M Wallace, McGregor ave. near Mayflewood ave Cincinnati Ohio. myself never had the pleasure of meeting this grat man. I wish to thank You for Your kind words towards myself.

Yours truly
Jacob Secrest

215 Gilman ave

~~Lindlaub~~, M. P.
Rindlaub

L.-D. Debates Freeport, Ill. Platteville, Wis.

M. P. RINDLAUB
488 WEST MAIN ST.
PLATTEVILLE, WISCONSIN

July 22, 1931.

Mr. Howard K. Terry,
9528 Wisteria street,
Bussleton,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir:---

Replying to your favor of recent date, I am enclosing an interview which was published in the Atlanta Constiturion, while I was attending the Convention of the National Editorial Convention during the first week in June, that will probably answer your purpose.

I have a sister in Philadelphia and I spent a week with her from the 4th to the 10th of the present month.

Should you hav e anthing that you think would interest me on the sub ject of Abraham Lincoln I would be pleased to receive it.

Very truly yous,

M. P. Rindlaub

M. P. Rindlaub.

M. P. Rindlaub of the Platteville

1838 – 1921

THE ATLANTA JOURNAL

Veteran Reporter Recalls Lincoln-Douglas Debate He Covered Back in 1858

HERE'S THE MAN WHO COVERED THE LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE at Freeport, Ill., in 1858. He is M. P. Rindlaub, of the Platteville (Wis.) Witness. He is accompanied by his daughter, Miss Elizabeth Rindlaub. Mr. Rindlaub is 93 years old and is having as good a time as anybody at the session of the National Editorial Association in the Biltmore.—Staff photo by Winn.

operated interstate

Editor M. P. Rindlaub, of Wisconsin, Tells of Stirring Campaign

BY ERNEST ROGERS

M. P. Rindlaub, editor of the Platteville (Wisconsin) Witness, recalled Monday at the Biltmore that as a reporter he covered the classic debate between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas at Freeport, Ill., in 1858. At the time, he says, Abe Lincoln made a deep impression on him.

Mr. Rindlaub, accompanied by his daughter, Miss Elizabeth Rindlaub, is attending the sessions of the National Editorial Association which began Monday morning in the Atlanta Biltmore. She is a retired physician and surgeon of Fargo, N. D.

But her father, 93 years old, finds keen delight in discussing the occasion of the debate and also the time he covered the convention at which Lincoln was nominated for President of the United States. The events, he said, are as clear in his memory as if they had happened yesterday.

"Douglas was running to succeed himself as United States senator at the time of the debate," the editor recalled. "The Republican state committee had chosen Abraham Lincoln to oppose him. It was agreed that Lincoln and Douglas would meet in seven public debates and the one at Freeport was the second of the series. At the time I was running a paper at Warren, Ill., so I went twenty-five miles to hear the argument.

Lincoln Not Impressive

"Judge Douglas was a senator and received a large salary; consequently, he was well dressed and made a fine appearance. He was very short—not much more than five feet tall—and very stout. But Lincoln was a poor man and although he had bought a long-tailed coat, he did not look so impressive. On one hand, Douglas was an orator. That was his business. Lincoln was just a lawyer who spoke with no flourishes.

"At the debate in Freeport, Lincoln was to answer seven questions propounded by Douglas. When Lincoln got up he said he would answer the questions if his opponent would allow him the privilege of asking a similar number. Judge Douglas did not answer; but nodded his head in the negative. Then Lincoln said: 'Well, I'll answer the questions anyhow.' And he did.

"After Douglas had finished his speech, Lincoln asked the crowd: 'If any person in the audience can tell me one point Judge Douglas has made hold up your hand.' There was not a hand held up. Douglas made no points (Mr. Rindlaub's eyes twinkled as he said this) because he was an orator and not a point maker."

The editor recounted that Douglas traveled on a special train while his opponent rode the regular trains without even a private car.

"The speaking site in Freeport," Mr. Rindlaub said, "was some distance out of town and Mr. Douglas' friends made plans to take him there in a handsome coach. But when they found out Lincoln was going in a wagon they changed their plans.

"Judge Douglas walked, but Lincoln stuck to his original plan of going to the speaking place in a wagon drawn by four fine horses. He had a half a dozen farmers in the wagon with him. Abe Lincoln was smart."

Mr. Lindlaub and his daughter report they are having a good time and will remain through the convention.

HERMAN ROWE PLANS

Rindlaub, Harris, Billings,
BOTHNE, CHAIRMAN.
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

L. O. THORPE, TREASURER.
WILLMAR, MINN.

W. AGER, SECRETARY.
EAU CLAIRE WIS.

Heg Monument Committee

State Chairmen:

S. H. HOLSTAD, MINN.: L. A. ANDERSON, WIS.: J. B. WIST, IOWA;
P. LANGSETH, NEBRASKA; M. F. HEGGE, N. DAK.:
MARTIN BERGH, S. DAK.: A. N. RYGG, NEW YORK (ATLANTIC DISTRICT)

May 13, 1931.

Mr. Howard W. Terry.
Philadelphia.

Dear Mr. Terry:

I have your letter relative to people who knew Lincoln. We had many here who knew him (mostly old soldiers), but they have died off fast in recent years. In my book "Freeport's Lincoln," I mention many, of course, among them M. P. Rindlaub, Platteville, Wis.; John P. Harris, Mineral Point, Wis.; Grace Bedell Billings, Delphos, Kas., and others. I think Jesse Moyer, State Capitol, Madison, had Lincoln or Rums of others who did. Your letter should be interesting and more so with time. I don't suppose you are a Lincoln collector. I have various Lincoln books, pictures, etc., which I think I must try to dispose of, as my collections are in other lines. Hoping this will aid you some, I am

Yours truly
A. O. Barton

The father of Clara Jacobson, Decorah, Iowa, knew Lincoln at Springfield, but is dead of course.

Ripetoe, Robert | Rushville, Ill. L.-D. Debate | Rushville, Ill.

Rushville Illinois November 7-1932

Lincoln Historical Research Foundation.

Gentlemen:

In answer to your Letter I have the following to report:

Age 88, Rushville,Illinois.

I saw Mr Lincoln and Douglas in Court House yard the time they made a Speech here in 1858.

Yours Truly

Robert Ripetoe.

Robbins, Ipha
~~Caswell, Rev. Lincoln~~

July 2 1931

Mr. Howard J. Terry.
Philadelphia, Penn.

Dear Sir

Yours is handwritten - I was born in 1865 the year Forest Fire passed on - consequently I heard him numerously spoken of besides the Oregon pioneer fire ride - However though he and my grandpa Jacob Robbins were cousins were removed and were little orphans, near the same ages in Ky. and Indiana - I can

tell you nothing. So
very different
and only from
childhoods memory
and but few later
There was a striking
family resemblance
in grandpa's face
to those of the
their life's work
was so very differ-
ent and my grand
-pa was a handsome
man as well as wise
I am enclosing a
clipping which on
trusting may
please (if you)
Most cordially Yours
Ipha Robbins
Walla Walla, Oregon

Robinson, Hiram Guard at Capitol Independence, Mo.

Feb 16 34 32

Mr Howard & Terry

In reply your letter and request at hand will say that I was in co H 57th reg At it transpired to Co. 12 U.S.R & during duty in Washington was on comp guard when by order was that I was on guard at the capitol until the body was in State then and one day stood in the door of the ramed room under the dome and sorted the people as they come and let one park go one side of the casket and then go on the

the side of the
casket it was open
in the center of the
round room under
the dome of the
capital so it was
plane to be seen
I was on guard at the
place till the conspirators
were gone

Hoping this be
satisfactory I remain

yours truly

Hiram Robinson
409 N Union
Independence
Mo

JOHN J. RODERICK
11811 Chesterfield Ave., N. E.
CLEVELAND, OHIO

Oct 12th 1931

Mr Howard C Ferro
Bastelon Phila Pa

Dear Sir

In reply to yours of the 4th, would say that at the time of the Assination of our idored President I was a member of Co C 187th Regt Pa Vol Inf, then stationed at Philadelphia Pa

I was fortunatly one of the honor guards on that occasion. There were three reliefs on guard "a duty" two hours, and off four. J P Morgan who recently died at Altoona Pa was stationed at the foot of the casket and my position at the head, on one of those reliefs, the regiment as a whole were stationed all around the square in order to facilitate the movement of the immense concourse of people there assembled. I recently read a book touching on those events and noticed that it said that Lincoln lay in state in the Independence Hall, you use the same words in your letter, the statement is incorrect A Building was erected a frame building for the purpose of holding the casket just outside of the Hall no doubt there are many citizens of the city still living, that can verify this statement It would have been almost impossible to have accomodated the immense

crowd of people had that been so. The entrance to this building was facing the side walk on an elevation of perhaps three or four feet. The procession passed around the casket and out through a back entrance to the park.

I merely mention this to efface a common belief of today that the body was so used. I do not know who the men were that were on the other relief, at that time these matters were of no consequence. I am now a member of Memorial Post 141 of the Grand Army of this state stationed here, the strongest one numerically in the State. There are people here that saw Lincoln living, and when dead not here. I did not see him while living, although I went to Bloomington for that purpose and to see my Brother who was slightly wounded at Antietam, and I failed in both from reasons, considered as an irresponsible person who assumed all responsibility. I met some again a sadly disappointed young man.

I have in our Post one Illinois soldier who went with his father when a boy to hear Lincoln make an address at Bloomington Ill his name and address Lee R Sucee 1480 Cordova Ave Lakewood O this may not be his present address, but this is his daughters home.

I had ample time to study the loved face of our President and it was surely the most tired and saddest face that I ever beheld.

Very Respectfully Yours

John J Roderick

1-1 RODGERS

GROVER CHILDERS
ATTORNEY AT LAW
SUITE 300 SHUKERT BLDG.
KANSAS CITY, MO.

PHONE VICTOR 8206

June 1, 1934.

Kansas City News Press,
3130 Troost Avenue,
Kansas City, Missouri.

Dear Editor:

I just read your article in the issue of May 31. Concerning the request of Dr. Lewis A. Warren for little known episodes in the life of Abraham Lincoln. Such an episode was related to me by Jesse Rodgers three or four years ago. Mr. Rodgers lived in the Mt. Washington district, dying about two years ago. His widow still lives at the home address.

Jesse Rodgers was a Civil War Veteran, and spent his boyhood in Springfield, Illinois. He was well acquainted with Abraham Lincoln and his family, and played with Robert Lincoln as boys together. Many times when the boys were in Marble games, the congenial Lincoln would stop and take a few shots with the boys. Mr. Rodgers always chuckled in his inimitable way, when telling of these incidents, and quoting the great emancipator, "Taw down boys, taw down".

In 1930 I took Mr. Rodgers to Kansas City Lodge NO. 1, Knights of Pythias, for a Lincoln meeting, held in February of that year. He was one of the oldest members of the order, and then very feeble. However, his mind was clear and active, and the experience of relating his intimate association with Mr. Lincoln and family rejuvenated this old veteran, then well up in his eighties, and provided an evening of real delight for him, as well as for the lodge members who heard his recital of intimate Lincoln incidents. The following was given by him to me in detail as we drove from his home in Mt. Washington to the Pythian Castle Hall at 2940 Troost Avenue. It throws an interesting light on the much discussed question of Mrs. Lincoln's high temper, and many witnesses of the recital by Mr. Rodgers are still active in Kansas City Lodge NO. 1, Knights of Pythias. He gave the story as follows:

"I lived in the vicinity of the Lincoln home in Springfield, Illinois, and spent much time with the Lincoln boys, and in their home. Used to run in at all hours during the day with the boys, or to see them, and also have talked with Mrs. Lincoln a great deal. She was a firey tempered woman, and old Abe always tried to avoid her outbreaks. One day Mrs. Lincoln was to go to the dress-maker's, and Mr. Lincoln asked me to hitch the horse to the carriage and drive her over. They had a new carriage without scratch or spot, of which Mrs. Lincoln was very proud. I drove her to the dress-maker's, and trotting the horse back at a lively

clipp, I turned a sharp corner, and collided with a heavy vehicle being driven rapidly along the street, and demolished one of the wheels on the Lincoln carriage. I did not know what to do; was scared out of my wits--for I knew Mrs. Lincoln would blow off when she found her new carriage damaged. After thinking for a few minutes, I concluded the best thing I could do would be to go up to Mr. Lincoln's office and tell him. Entering his office, I nervously recited the facts of the catastrophe. Worry crept over Mr. Lincoln's face. He sat, staring at the floor. Presently his face lighted, and looking up at me, he said: "I'll tell you what we'll do Jesse. You take the carriage right on over to Wolf's shop and have them put on a new wheel, and don't tell Mrs. Lincoln anything about it. Tell them to have it ready for you by 4:00 o'clock, so you can go by the dress-maker's and get Mrs. Lincoln. Old Abe chuckled as he called out his final words, repeating them as I left: "Be sure and have Mr. Wolf get the carriage ready by 4:00, and don't say anything to Mrs. Lincoln". I took the carriage to Wolf's shop, and gave Mr. Wolf Mr. Lincoln's instructions. He advised me that he would have a new wheel on it, and have it ready for me by 4:00 o'clock, and I took the horse on up to Mr. Lincoln's home. In the afternoon I took the horse back, and at 4:00 o'clock the carriage was ready, and hitching up, I drove back to the dress-maker's, got Mrs. Lincoln, and drove her home. She never knew of the accident."

Mr. Rodger's face lighted as he added with a chuckle: "So Abe and I saved the day, and saved Mrs. Lincoln's temper".

Respectfully yours,

Jesse Rodgers

GC/JH.

Rodgers, Jesse B. Springfield, Ill. - lived near L. - played with L. boys

His Father Split Wood For "The Railsplitter"

Kas City Star 2-7-26

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, the rail-splitter, was willing enough to hire somebody else to split the stovewood for him when he became a rising young lawyer at Springfield, Ill. Jesse B. Rodgers, 81 years old, boyhood neighbor of the Civil War President and veteran of Company I, 130th Illinois regiment, is positive about this, for it was the father of Jesse Rodgers who chopped wood for Lincoln there in Springfield, and this neighborly contact and other conditions afforded the boy an insight into the homely, everyday life of a great man in the making.

In his little home on North Greenwood street, Mt. Washington, on a high bluff overlooking the Missouri River, Mr. Rodgers tells the visitor many intimate facts of the friend and neighbor, the lawyer who was loved by all the children in town, a busy man who could, and did, snatch a few minutes on a walk to his office to play marbles with a group of boys on a street corner.

As a chum and schoolmate of Robert Todd Lincoln, the lawyer's son, Jesse Rodgers knew much of the home life of Lincoln and his family. Many times as a youngster Rodgers ate at the table of the lawyer without dreaming that he was enjoying the hospitality of a future President.

A Leader of Boys.

"Lincoln was the kind of man who could win the real respect and admiration of the boys," Mr. Rodgers says. "A whole gang of youngsters would accompany him down the street as he walked to and from his office, and often he would stop to play a game of marbles.

"'Here now, don't fudge,' he would caution, and just before leaving he would tell the boys not to fight.

"'A game that's worth playing is worth playing hard,' he would say. 'Put into it your best efforts, but let those efforts be friendly.'

Heard Debate With Douglas.

"There was just enough of the kindly humor and banter to keep Lincoln's advice from sounding 'preachy.' But there also was enough of seriousness and deep meaning for it to make an impression on growing boys."

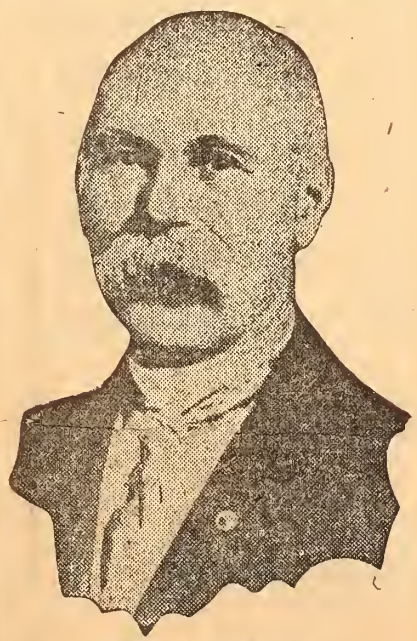
Mr. Rodgers recalls speeches made at the statehouse square by Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas—a part of the great series of debates which are a part of history.

"People nowadays know of a debate as an orderly affair in an auditorium presided over by an official who keeps time on the speakers, who take turns in presenting their respective sides of the question. The debate between Lincoln and Douglas there in Springfield, as I remember it, was an open air meeting. The speakers stood on opposite corners of the statehouse square and both spoke at the same time. The comparative effectiveness of the speakers could be judged by the size of the crowds that gathered around them.

"I was not old enough to have much of an opinion on the comparative merits of the speakers, but I know that our own townsman had his share of the crowd."

Lincoln Not Henpecked.

"My father chopped wood for the Lincoln home and did other work around the house, and one way of really knowing a man is to work for him," Rodgers said. "My father was a good workman who could turn out his share of honest service in a day and Lincoln was the kind of man who could judge a day's work when he saw it. He paid liberally, judged by the standards of the time. Fifty cents a day was considered a day's pay for ordinary labor, but Lincoln paid my father 75 cents.



JESSE B. RODGERS TODAY.

"Alhough Lincoln was jocular and full of banter among friends, he always seemed quiet and reserved at the family table. There are some who make much of Mrs. Lincoln's high temper, and while such an idea is more or less well founded, it is easy enough for such a thing to be overrated. Lincoln was above being what you would call a 'henpecked' man, but he did take care to avoid any more unpleasant domestic experiences than were necessary.

"For instance, Mr. Lincoln and I were partners in a little conspiracy of our own to escape a scolding from Mrs. Lincoln.

"It happened that Mr. Lincoln lent his carriage to a widow who desired to attend the funeral of a friend. The widow had me drive the horses for her. It was a high-strung team, but I managed to keep a tight rein on them until on our way back from the cemetery. Then, as we turned down the road toward the widow's home, the team got frightened and away they went. The carriage overturned and two wheels were broken. Nobody was hurt, but after I got the team stopped I still had a good deal to worry about. It was up to me to take the carriage back to the Lincoln home and tell about the damaged wheels.

"But I first went to Mr. Lincoln's office and told him all about it. I could see that he was much concerned with my worry over the matter—and I guess there was a little trace of worry on his own account. He told me to take the carriage around to the wheelwright and get it fixed. And as I went out the door he turned and said:

"'And tell him to send the bill to me, and for goodness' sake, don't let Mrs. Lincoln know about it.'

Not a "Grasping" Lawyer.

"The mechanic did a good job, and nobody could tell the difference. It was not for a long time that Mrs. Lincoln knew about it, and by that time she was ready to take it in good grace."

Lincoln's conscientiousness in the size of the fees he charged was commented upon in Springfield even in Mr. Rodgers's day. His fees seem absurdly small when considered today. There is a letter in which he says to a client who evidently had asked him to set a price: "If the case is as stated within, I will attend to the case in the supreme court for $10." On another occasion, when a client sent him $25, Lincoln returned $10, saying he believed $15 a sufficient fee.

Mr. Rodgers recalls a story told of Lincoln's uneasiness after he had rendered a bill for a case which he had won. Lincoln went to a banker friend of Springfield and asked his advice about it. As the two discussed the matter they met the lawyer who had opposed Lincoln in the case, and as they were all friends, the banker suggested they ask him what he charged. The lawyer said that since he lost the case he had charged only $300. As Lincoln received only $200 for winning the case, his conscience seems to have been satisfied.

Saw Lincoln Leave Springfield.

Mr. Rodgers, the young man, was among the few who were at the station to bid the old friend and neighbor goodby when he left Springfield, later to become the great Civil War President.

"I was working on a farm at the time," Mr. Rodgers says. "Another farm hand and I walked in to see Lin-

THE LINCOLN HOME IN SPRINGFIELD WHERE JESSE RODGERS AS A BOY OFTEN DINED WITH THE FAMILY OF THE FUTURE PRESIDENT.

coln leave. Considering the greatness of the event it seems strange that there were so few there.

"'Goodby, boys,' he said to us. 'There are dark days ahead, but we must all hold loyal to each other and see it through to victory.' That was in the latter part of February, 1861. He had a soft, pleasing voice that was solemn with feeling that he did not dare to express. War was inevitable, and all of us realized it—and most of all, Lincoln himself. Men spoke in solemn tones of the terrible calamity that was to come."

And when it came, Jesse Rodgers, the neighbor boy of Abraham Lincoln, enlisted with the Governor Yeats regiment, the 130th Illinois. His regiment was encamped near Mobile, Ala., when word came of the assassination of Lincoln.

CORP. JESSE B. RODGERS. FROM A DAGUERREOTYPE TAKEN IN MEMPHIS IN 1863.

Roll, J. Linden

Springfield, Ill.
Burial

Springfield, Ill.

Springfield Ills. Feby 12-1932

Mr Howard K. Terry
Bustleton Phila. Pa.

My Dear Sir

Replying to yours of Nov. 7-31 will state that while I was only eleven years of age at the time President Lincoln's remains arrived in Springfield I have a very distinct recollection of viewing the remains as they were exposed to the view of his grief stricken neighbor and friends. Now I was impressed with the elaborate ceremonies, the profuse mourning decorations, the grand funeral parade and distinguished guests. My father was a member of the local committee to receive the ~~the receiving~~ the visiting party and my brother was marshall of one devision of the grand parade.
My father, John Eddy Roll, came to Springfield in June 1838 and in the following Spring helped Lincoln build the flatboat in which Lincoln shipped a cargo of merchandise to New Orleans. I have a ledger showing that my father did some work in remodeling the Lincoln home in Apl. 1849 and took in part payment for his labor "six walnut doors", which my father had made into furniture which is now

in my possession. In a speech made in the Ill. Capitol in which Lincoln said "the Country could not live half slave and half free", he referred to my father who was in the audience when he added; "We were all slaves at one time but white men could make themselves free but negros could not, there is my old friend John Roll he used to be a slave but he has made himself free and I used to be a slave and now I am so free they let me practice law." When the Lincoln family went to Washington in 1860 they left their dog "Fido" with us and he made it his home until he died. My father tells how one day, he and a Mr Lewis were talking on the street and Lewis said "John why don't you run for office? you have enough tenants to elect you", and my father replyed, "When Lincoln is elected President I would expect him to give me an office." Lincoln came along while they were talking about that time and Lewis told him what they were talking about and Lincoln laughed and said "When I am elected President I'll give John an office because he helped me build the flat boat." This was long before Lincoln was ever thought of for President. So my father claimed he was the first man offered an office by Lincoln. I mentioned these incidents to show how closely my father was associated with Lincoln. I could fill many pages of similar incident but this will suffice. Most Respectfully J. Linden Roll

825 Henrietta St.

2/3-1931

Making Conversation

Ill. State Journal

BY J. EMIL SMITH.

Owners of dogs can find interest in the story of Abraham Lincoln's yellow dog, Fido.

"Like his master, Fido was assassinated," says John L. Roll, 825 Henrietta street.

J. EMIL SMITH

When Lincoln was elected to the presidency and left for Washington to preside over the destinies of the nation, he placed the dog in the keeping of Mr. Roll's father, John E. Roll.

Fido was a mongrel or cur dog, but of a most friendly nature. His friendliness, manifested on one occasion by jumping and placing his paws on the breast of a half-intoxicated man caused his death. The man plunged a knife into the dog's body.

Mr. Roll brought me a copy of an old magazine, published years ago, in which was detailed the story of Fido and his death. The author of the article wrote the story after an interview with Mr. Roll's father. The article says:

"Old Fido loved his master; loved him only as a poor dumb brute knows how to love. And perhaps Fido knew his master as few if any human friends knew him.

"Fido had not much to brag of in pedigree. He was not an aristocrat. I doubt if his master would have cared to have him about had he been a dog with a pedigree. To tell the truth he was only a typical 'yaller dog.'

"Affectionate of disposition, Old Fido would watch for his master and then follow him about with every manifestation of canine delight until he had succeeded in reaching his face with that dumb caress that only can be given by a dog as expression of his love.

"To a nature such as Lincoln's the companionship of a dumb brute is particularly acceptable. Fido had a ready response to his every mood and was happy when, without a word, the strong hand of his master stroked his head.

"After the first greeting of a dog's kiss on his face, Fido was content to lie quiet until another greeting was in order, when the dog would bark and jump until, with his muddy forepaws on his master's breast, he succeeded in reaching Lincoln's face.

"When the Lincoln family moved to Washington no little concern was felt in regard to Fido. It was at last decided to leave him with an old friend, Mr. John Roll of Springfield. The dog took the moving of the family with philosophical fortitude, and endeared himself to the family with which he spent his last days.

"Mr. Roll yet speaks tenderly of him and sorrowfully of his tragic fate, bemoaning the fact that, in his words, 'Fido, too, was assassinated.'

"The circumstances were as follows: Charlie Plank, a half-drunken man, was one day whittling a pine stick when Fido came bounding along and, as usual, sprang forward with his fore feet raised. In drunken rage, the man thrust his knife into the animal, and poor Fido ran away, not to be found for a month after, when his lifeless body was discovered under an old church.

"Poor old Fido was buried by loving hands in a spot that is kept sacred to this day. It is as Lincoln's dog that Fido will particularly interest with a verification of the old saying, 'Love me, love my dog.'

"Yet aside from this connection, his faithful life deserves a tribute."

Roll, John Linden Sangamon Town, Ill.

THE STORY OF THE ROLLS

In the spring of 1828, William Roll, his brother, Jacob and the latter's son, Pierson Roll, arrived in Sangamon Town from New Jersey. William Roll became a farmer, his brother, Jacob, was the owner of a store, a grist mill and the Sangamon Town Postmaster and Pierson Roll became an extensive land owner.

Two years later, John Roll, followed his father, William Roll to Sangamon Town with the balance of the Roll family. It was here that the younger Roll met Abraham Lincoln for the first time early in 1831 when he helped the latter build the flat boat that later became lodged on the RutledgeDam at New Salem, Illinois. John made all the wooden pins for the boat, as in those days wodden pins were used in place of nails.

After Lincoln departed from Sangamon Town life once more became dull and John Roll, like his friend "Abe" left the village and made his home at Springfield, Illinois. It was at Springfield some years later that Mr. Lincoln made his first political promise, stating that when he became president he would give John Roll an office.

John Roll was one of the contractors on the Old State House in Springfield, while his brother-in-law, John F. Rague, was [illegible]'s architect. As a contractor Roll made repairs at the Lincoln home in 1849 and in settlement for the work received "six walnut doors and cash." The doors were made into furniture and souvenirs, which presently are in the author's possession.

In 1854 John Roll's son, William VanDyke Roll, was a school mate of Robert Lincoln at the Illinois State University. His two smaller children, Frank P. and John Linden Roll were playmates of Tad and Willie Lincoln. When the Lincolns departed for Washington they presented their dog 'Fido' to the Roll boys.

When Mr. Lincoln made his House Divided Speech in the Old State House he said, "There is my friend, John Roll, etc. etc.....". This friendship persisted to Lincoln's untimely death, after which John Roll until his death in 1901 lived in reveries of his beloved hero of the 'Flat Boat' building days.

The Rolls, with one exception, your author, have followed their friends the Lincoln to the Great Beyond. John Linden Roll is the last of those Rolls that were so intimately associated with the Lincolns. His fondest possessions are the hundreds of souvenirs, pictures, clippings and tokens dealing with Lincoln.

I do hope this short biographical sketch gives you a small fraction of the pleasure that I derived in compiling it for you.

Sincerely,

John Linden Roll

JOHN LINDEN ROLL.

Roustson, Mr. William Washington - soldier Ada, Ohio

Ada, Ohio, Oct. 10, 1932

Dr. Louis A. Warren,
Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Sir:-

Did not know you were collecting "I saw Lincoln" notes until the Bulletin arrived. Hence am sending in a belated note.

Wm. Roustson, Ada, Ohio, aged 86, a member of the 118" O.V.I., 23 Corps., saw Lincoln in Feb. 1865 in Washington while enroute with his Corps. from Nashville, Tenn. to Cape Fear River, N.C.

Also am enclosing a clipping from the local paper regarding the late unveiling ceremonies.

Respy
H. M. Povenmire

ADA HERALD 10-7-32

Statue of Lincoln is Unveiled at Ft. Wayne

Harlo M. Povenmire of Ada was among the spectators at the unveiling of the huge bronze statue, "Abraham Lincoln, the Hoosier Youth," at Ft. Wayne, Ind.

The statue, the fruit of four years' work by Paul Manship, New York sculptor, portrays the Emancipator for the first time as a youth of 21. The dedicatory address was given by Arthur M. Hyde, secretary of agriculture.

Following the dedicatory ceremonies, Mr. Povenmire paid a visit to the quarters of the Lincoln National Life Foundation, which since its establishment four years ago has become the center of Lincoln information in America. Under the direction of Dr. Louis A. Warren, one of the best known Lincoln scholars, there has been assembled in the Foundation's museum and library the largest private collection of literature ever gathered about one man, Biblical characters excepted.

Mr. Povenmire, whose father served in the Union army during the Civil war, has long made a study of the life of Lincoln.

Rowe, Mrs. Sara Berea, Ohio

East Cleveland, Ohio.
August 30, 1932.

Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

Gentlemen:-

My attention has been called to the enclosed clipping, and I have been wondering if perhaps my mother, Mrs. Sarah Rowe, is the oldest person in Ohio who saw Abraham Lincoln.

Mrs. Rowe is ninety-two years old, having been born August 18, 1840. She is in good health with all her faculties, except that she is somewhat hard of hearing. She travels considerably for one of her age and remembers quite distinctly seeing Mr. Lincoln in Mansfield, Ohio at the Union Camp during the Civil War when her husband was there in camp. I think she could probably tell some interesting things about that visit.

I am passing this information on to you for your consideration. Mrs. Rowe may be reached at the following address; which is also my home;

15001 Elderwood Ave.,
East Cleveland, Ohio.
Suite 6.
C/o Mrs. H. C. McKee.

Very truly yours,

Enc.

Bertha R. McKee

Rowe, Mrs. Sara

Berea, Ohio

LINCOLN NATIONAL
MAIL DEPARTMENT
Referred to
REC'D SEP 6
Answered
LIFE INS.

15001 Elderwood Ave.,
East Cleveland, Ohio.
September 5, 1932.

Mr. Louis A. Warren, Director,
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dear Mr. Warren:-

I am enclosing herewith the blank filled out by my Mother, Sarah Rowe,

In the Remarks space I have indicated the occasion of her seeing Lincoln as I was mistaken about the place as she says it was in Millersburg, Ohio.

Very truly yours,

Bertha R. McKee

Enc.

- Rowe, Sarah Millersburg, Ohio Berea, Ohio

92.

"I Saw Lincoln"

Full Name Sarah Rowe

Present Address Berea Ohio

Date of Birth Year 1840 Month aug Day 18

Place of Birth millersburg o

Where you saw Lincoln " "

When you saw Lincoln Summer or early fall 1860

Remarks: -

Mrs. Rowe saw Lincoln and heard him speak at a ~~political meeting~~ in Millersburg, Ohio at the time above indicated, by her.

Probably saw Lincoln on way to inauguration for long ride.

Russell, Elizabeth | Little Rock, Ark. ~~I met~~ before assassination a little slave girl | Kokomo, Indiana

"I saw Lincoln" 76

Full Name Elizabeth Russell

Present Address 1015 N. La fountain St.

Date of Birth Year 1856 Month July Day 4th

Place of Birth Maysville Kentucky

Where you saw Lincoln In Little Rock Ark. at the Anton House Hotel

When you saw Lincoln When he toured the South not long before he was assassinated

Remarks: - The keeper of the Hotel (Mr. Palmer) taken his little girl (Minna) and I up to see the President I was bound out to him as a play mate for his little girl, I staid there until my mothers owner took all his slaves and fled to Texas to escape the Yankees

(over)

and my Mother came [illegible] to get me, and
Mrs. Palmer had saved all the money that the
guest in the Hotel had given me for Errands, and
had them in a Cigar box and gave it to my Mother
and it was the first money my mother Ever had possess
ed of her own. The President patted both Mine and
Ed on his knee, and when he told me good-bye he laid
his hands on my head and said God Bless you little
one. I shall never forget my visit to Abraham
I am very feeble now, not able to travel but my Lincoln
Memory is clear, of the many Scenes of my childhood and do
remember many interesting things of the war.

Russell, Elizabeth — Kokomo, Ind.

DEPARTMENT
AUG 24 1932

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PLYMOUTH, INDIANA Aug. 23/32.

The Lincoln National Life Insurance
Trust, Wayne, Ind.

Gentlemen.

Having seen your add in the South Bend tribune. Seeking person who knew Lincoln. The great emancipator. I know of a lady now living in Kokomo. Ind. who sat on Pres Lincoln, lap at the age of about 4 or 5 years old he Talked to her girls a little. Their lady's name is Mother Russell. now nearly 80 years old. and is living with her daughter at Kokomo, Ind. Mrs. Alice Basset, 1015 North Lafountain St. Please write to her use my name if you like. she has a large news item which she has saved of the whole story in News paper. which she will be glad to show any one interested in the matter

Yours truly
William J Miller

I have also a Rollin wall Lens. that I will enlargen for this Book 20 Years.

Russell, Ellsworth M. Petersburg Norton Hgts., Conn.

TELEPHONE DARIEN 1121-2—7:30 A. M. TO 5 P. M.
DARIEN 1122 —5:00 P. M. TO 7:30 A. M.

FITCH'S HOME FOR SOLDIERS
AND
SOLDIERS' HOSPITAL OF CONNECTICUT
NOROTON HEIGHTS, CONN.

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT

IN REPLY REFER TO:

March 30th, 1931.

Mr. Howard K. Terry,
9528 Wisteria St.,
Bustleton, Philadelphia,
Pa.

Dear Mr. Terry;

In response to your letter of March 26th requesting information as to whether or not amy of our Civil War veterans knew or saw Abraham Lincoln, please be advised that of the forty odd vets still remaining in our Home, the only one who enjoyed meeting President Lincoln was Ellsworth M. Russell, who made the following comments:

> "Lincoln shook hands with me and said: 'Hello my little man!' It happened in front of Petersburg. I was a Private in M Company, 2nd Connecticut Heavy Artillery, - 17 years of age and small for my age."

Mr. Russell, in spite of his advanced age, is very alert mentally, and may be able to give you some information.

Thanking you for your interest in the matter, I am,

Very truly yours,

William H. Welch,

Commandant.

WHW:fcw